

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 6-8 and 10-12 as indicated and add new claims 14-21.

B/ 1. (Currently amended) A method of treating hypertension in a mammal, which has experienced intrauterine under nutrition and/or growth retardation or an adverse post natal environment, the method comprising the step of administering to the mammal an effective amount of an agent, ~~wherein the agent is a ligand which binds to, and activates, the growth hormone receptor~~ growth hormone, wherein said amount is effective to reduce blood pressure in said mammal.

2. (Currently amended) A method of treating hypertension in a mammal, which has experienced intrauterine under nutrition and/or growth retardation or an adverse post natal environment, the method comprising the step of administering to the mammal an effective amount of an agent a growth hormone selected from the group consisting of human growth hormone, an analog thereof, and a functionally, equivalent ligand bovine growth hormone, rat growth hormone or porcine growth hormone.

3. (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the mammal has experienced an adverse postnatal environment comprising a hypocaloric or hypercaloric diet.

4. (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the mammal is an adult mammal.

5. (Original) A method as claimed claim 4 wherein the mammal is an adult human.

6. (Currently amended) A method as claimed ~~in in~~ claim 5 wherein ~~the agent administered to the mammal~~ said growth hormone is human growth hormone.

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7. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the agent growth hormone is administered to the mammal in combination with ~~a~~ a second anti-hypertensive agent.

8. (Currently amended) A method of treating hypertension in a mammal, which has experienced intrauterine under nutrition and/or growth retardation or an adverse postnatal environment, the method comprising the step of increasing the effective concentration of growth hormone, ~~an analog thereof or a functionally equivalent ligand~~ in the mammal, wherein said step of increasing is sufficient to decrease blood pressure.

9. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the mammal has experienced an adverse postnatal environment comprising a hypocaloric or hypercaloric diet.

10. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in either claim 8 wherein the effective concentration of the growth hormone, ~~an analog thereof or a functionally equivalent ligand~~ is increased through administration of an agent which either stimulates production of growth hormone or which lessens or prevents inhibition of growth hormone activity.

11. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in either claim 8 wherein the effective concentration of growth hormone is increased through direct administration of growth hormone.

12. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in any one of claims 8 to ~~to~~ 11 wherein the mammal is an adult human.

Please add the following new claims.

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13. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein said second anti-hypertensive agent is an angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor.

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14. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein said angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor is quinapril.

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15. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein said step of increasing the effective concentration of growth hormone is carried out by administering a growth hormone releasing peptide (GHRP).

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16. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said GHRP is selected from the group consisting of GHRP-1, GHRP-2, GHRP-6, hexarelin, G-7039, G7502, L-692,429, L-692,585 and L-163,191.

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17. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein said step of increasing the effective concentration of growth hormone is carried out by administering growth hormone releasing hormone (GHRH).

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18. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein said step of increasing the effective concentration of growth hormone is carried out by administering an inhibitor of a growth hormone antagonist.

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19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said inhibitor is somatostatin release inhibitor factor.

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20. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the dose of said growth hormone is in the range of
about 0.1 $\mu\text{g/kg/day}$ to
about 1 mg/kg/day .

28.

21. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said blood pressure is systolic blood pressure.